

**District of Columbia Public Schools**  
**2009 Summer Reading List for Rising 6th Grade Students**

<b>Author</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Synopsis</b>
<b>Alcott, Louisa May</b>	<b>Little Women</b>	The classic story of Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy in nineteenth-century New England.
<b>Armstrong, William</b>	<b>Sounder</b>	Angry and humiliated when his sharecropper father is jailed for stealing food for his family, a young black boy grows in courage and understanding with the help of the devoted dog Sounder.
<b>Bartoletti, Susan</b>	<b>Kids on Strike!</b>	American children to strike in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, discussing such events as the mill workers' strike; the coal strikes; and Mother Jones's 125-mile "Children's Crusade" March.
<b>Bauer, Joan</b>	<b>Hope Was Here</b>	move from Brooklyn to Mulhoney, Wisconsin, to work as waitress and cook in the Welcome Stairways diner, they become involved with the diner owner's political campaign to oust the town's corrupt mayor.
<b>Blackwood, Gary</b>	<b>The Shakespeare Stealer</b>	A young orphan boy is ordered by his master to infiltrate Shakespeare's acting troupe in order to steal the script of "Hamlet," but he discovers instead the meaning of friendship
<b>Bradby, Marie</b>	<b>Some Friend</b>	Fifth grader Pearl Jordan learns some difficult lessons about friendship when she befriends the odd, but artistically talented Artemesia, then shuns her in favor of the popular Lenore.
<b>Carbone, Elisa</b>	<b>Blood on the River: James Town, 1607</b>	While traveling to the New World in 1606 as the page to Captain John Smith, twelve-year-old orphan Samuel Collier settles in the new colony of Jamestown, where he must quickly learn to distinguish between friend and foe.
<b>Carmi, Daniella</b>	<b>Samir and Yonatan</b>	hospital where his fear and resentment for the people he blames for his brother's death, is replaced by the understanding that comes through a closer association with the Israeli kids around him.
<b>Choldenko, Gennifer</b>	<b>Al Capone Does My Shirts</b>	A twelve-year-old boy named Moose moves to Alcatraz Island in 1935 when guards' families were housed there, and has to contend with his extraordinary new environment in addition to life with his autistic sister.
<b>Clement-Davies, David</b>	<b>Fire Bringer</b>	Rannoch, born with a fawn mark the shape of an oak leaf on his forehead, is destined to lead the deer out of the Lord of the Herd's tyranny, but he must first complete a journey through the Great Land.

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<b>Collins, Suzanne</b>	<b>Gregor the Overlander</b>	When eleven-year-old Gregor and his two-year-old sister are pulled into a strange underground world, they trigger an epic battle involving humans, bats, rats, cockroaches, and spiders while on a quest foretold by ancient prophecy.
<b>Creech, Sharon</b>	<b>Walk Two Moons</b>	After her mother leaves home suddenly, thirteen-year-old Sal and her grandparents take a car trip retracing her mother's route. Along the way, Sal recounts the story of her friend Phoebe, whose mother also left.
<b>Compestine, Ying C.</b>	<b>Revolution is Not a Dinner Party</b>	doctors, struggles to make sense of the communists' Cultural Revolution.
<b>Curtis, Christopher</b>	<b>Elijah of Buxton</b>	Buxton, Canada, which is a haven for slaves fleeing the American South in 1859, uses his wits and skills to try to bring to justice the lying preacher who has stolen money that was to be used to buy a family's freedom.
<b>Draper, Sharon</b>	<b>Fire from the Rock</b>	Sylvia Patterson's life suddenly changes with the integration of Little Rock's Central High in 1957 when she is selected to be one of the first black students to attend the previously all white school.
<b>Fleischman, Paul</b>	<b>Bull Run</b>	Northerners, Southerners, generals, couriers, dreaming boys, and worried sisters describe the glory, the horror, the thrill, and the disillusionment of the first battle of the Civil War.
<b>Gaiman, Neil</b>	<b>The Graveyard Book</b>	The orphan Bod, short for Nobody, is taken in by the inhabitants of a graveyard as a child of eighteen months and raised lovingly and carefully to the age of eighteen years by the community of ghosts and otherworldly creatures.
<b>Garrigue, Sheila</b>	<b>The Eternal Spring of Mr. Ito</b>	The fate of a 200-year-old bonsai tree is decided by a young girl and an old Japanese Canadian gardener who resists being imprisoned in an internment camp after the bombing of Pearl Harbor.
<b>Giovanni, Nikki, ed.</b>	<b>Hip Hop Speaks to Children</b>	A collection of fifty-one children's poems that features selections from Nikki Giovanni, Queen Latifah, and the Sugarhill Gang; and contains an audio CD with thirty performances.

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<b>Hamilton, Virginia</b>	<b>Zeely</b>	Geeder's summer at her uncle's farm is made special because of her friendship with a very tall, composed woman who raises hogs and who closely resembles the magazine photograph of a Watutsi queen.
<b>Han, Jenny</b>	<b>Shug</b>	A twelve-year-old girl learns about friendship, first loves, and self-worth in a small town in the South.
<b>Hesse, Karen</b>	<b>Out of the Dust</b>	In a series of poems, fifteen-year-old Billie Jo relates the hardships of living on her family's wheat farm in Oklahoma during the dust bowl years of the Depression.
<b>Hiaasen, Carl</b>	<b>Hoot</b>	Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site.
<b>Jacques, Brian</b>	<b>Redwall</b>	A collection of three adventure fantasy stories in the Redwall series including "The Wall," "The Quest," and "The Warrior."
<b>Konigsburg, E.L.</b>	<b>The Outcasts of 19 Schuyler Place</b>	Upon leaving an oppressive summer camp, twelve-year-old Margaret Rose Kane spearheads a campaign to preserve three unique towers her grand uncles have been building in their back yard for over forty years.
<b>Lat</b>	<b>Kampung Boy</b>	Life experiences of a Muslim boy growing up on a rubber plantation in rural Malaysia. A recount of his life from birth to the start of boarding school.
<b>Law, Ingrid</b>	<b>Savvy</b>	The adventures of Mibs Beaumont, whose thirteenth birthday has revealed her "savvy"--a magical power unique to each member of her family--just as her father is injured in a terrible
<b>Levine, Gail Carson</b>	<b>Ella Enchanted</b>	In this novel based on the story of Cinderella, Ella struggles against the childhood curse that forces her to obey any order
<b>Lord, Bette Bao</b>	<b>In the Year of the Boar and Jackie Robinson</b>	In 1947, a Chinese child comes to Brooklyn where she becomes Americanized at school, in her apartment building, and by her love for baseball.
<b>Lowry, Lois</b>	<b>Number the Stars</b>	In 1943, during the German occupation of Denmark, ten-year-old Annemarie learns how to be brave and courageous when she helps shelter her Jewish friend from the Nazis.
<b>Lubar, David</b>	<b>Hidden Talents</b>	Thirteen-year-old Martin, a new student at an alternative school for misfits and problem students, falls in with a group of boys with psychic powers and discovers something surprising about himself.

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<b>McKay, Hilary</b>	<b>Saffy's Angel</b>	After learning that she was adopted, thirteen-year-old Saffron's relationship with her eccentric, artistic family changes, until they help her go back to Italy where she was born to find a special memento of her past.
<b>Mortenson, Greg</b>	<b>Three Cups of Tea (Young Reader's Edition)</b>	Greg Mortenson recounts the experiences he had while trying to help impoverished villages in Pakistan's Karakoram Himalaya build schools for their children.
<b>Oppel, Kenneth</b>	<b>Airborn</b>	Matt, a young cabin boy aboard an airship, and Kate, a wealthy young girl traveling with her chaperone, team up to search for the existence of mysterious winged creatures
<b>Various Authors</b>	<b>Our White House: Looking In, Looking Out</b>	A collection of essays, personal accounts, historical fiction, and poetry that traces the history of the White House through the eyes of the children who have lived and visited there.
<b>Park, Linda Sue</b>	<b>A Single Shard</b>	Tree-ear, a thirteen-year-old orphan in medieval Korea, lives under a bridge near a potters' village, and longs to learn how to throw the delicate celadon ceramics himself.
<b>Pierce, Tamora</b>	<b>Alanna</b>	Eleven-year-old Alanna, who aspires to be a knight even though she is a girl, disguises herself as a boy to become a royal page, learning many hard lessons along her path to high
<b>Raven, Margot Theis</b>	<b>Night Boat to Freedom</b>	At the request of his fellow slave Granny Judith, Christmas John risks his life to take runaways across a river from Kentucky to Ohio. Based on slave narratives recorded in the 1930s.
<b>Riordan, Rick</b>	<b>The Lightning Thief</b>	After learning that he is the son of a mortal woman and Poseidon, god of the sea, twelve-year-old Percy is sent to a summer camp for demigods like himself, and joins his new friends on a quest to prevent a war between the gods.
<b>Ripley's Publishing</b>	<b>Ripley's Believe It or Not!</b>	An illustrated collection of interesting and bizarre facts collected for Ripley's Believe it or Not and includes entries from science, arts and entertainment, extraordinary animals, and facts about the earth.
<b>Rowling, J. K.</b>	<b>Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows</b>	Sequel to: Harry Potter and the half-blood prince. Follows the journey of the series' protagonist Harry Potter as he attempts to bring an end to his archenemy, Lord Voldemort.

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<b>Sis, Peter</b>	<b>The Wall</b>	Artist Sis Peter describes what it was like growing up in a Communist country and discusses how Western culture influenced his life.
<b>Soto, Gary</b>	<b>Baseball in April and Other Stories</b>	A collection of eleven short stories focusing on the everyday adventures of Hispanic young people growing up in Fresno, California.
<b>Speare, Elizabeth</b>	<b>Witch of Blackbird Pond</b>	In 1687 in Connecticut, Kit Tyler, feeling out of place in the Puritan household of her aunt, befriends an old woman considered a witch by the community and suddenly finds herself standing trial for witchcraft.
<b>Thomson, Peggy</b>	<b>The Nine-Ton Cat: Behind the Scenes at an Art Museum</b>	A behind-the-scenes look at the National Gallery of Art including its private spaces, workshops, offices, and labs where visitors rarely enter.
<b>Updale, Eleanor</b>	<b>Montmorency: Thief, Liar, Gentleman?</b>	physician, a thief utilizes the knowledge he gains in prison and from the scientific lectures he attends as the physician's case study exhibit to create a new, highly successful, double life for himself.
<b>Watkins, Richard R.</b>	<b>Gladiator</b>	The history of gladiators, including types of armor, use of animals, amphitheaters, and how the practice fit into Roman society for almost 700 years.
<b>Weeks, Sarah</b>	<b>So B. It</b>	After spending her life with her mentally retarded mother and agoraphobic neighbor, twelve-year-old Heidi sets out from Reno, Nevada, to New York to find out about herself.
<b>Woods, Brenda</b>	<b>Red Rose Box</b>	In 1953, Leah Hopper dreams of leaving the poverty and segregation of her home in Sulphur, Louisiana, and when Aunt Olivia sends train tickets to Los Angeles as part of her tenth birthday present, Leah gets a first taste of freedom.
<b>Woodson, Jacqueline</b>	<b>After Tupac and D Foster</b>	In the New York City borough of Queens in 1996, three girls bond over their shared love of Tupac Shakur's music, as together they try to make sense of the unpredictable world in which they live.